

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Mapes Bill Passes House

The bill (H. R. 15218) to amend the Food and Drugs Act so as to require the labeling of inferior canned foods to show that they are inferior, was passed by the House on February 25. The bill was on the unanimous consent calendar, and when it was reached, the only objection to its consideration was voiced by Representative O'Connell of New York, who raised the question whether any penalty was provided to apply to the man who violates the law. When he was informed that the same penalty will apply to a violation of the provisions of this amendment that apply to any violation of other provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, Representative O'Connell withdrew his objection, and the bill was passed by a unanimous vote.

Use of Word "Telephone" on Canned Pea Labels

An investigation to determine the interpretation usually placed by consumers on the word "Telephone" as used on canned pea labels will be made by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration, it is announced by officials of that office. If it is found that consumers interpret this designation as referring to a specific variety of peas rather than to a certain size, it is likely that the Federal authorities will rule that the name should be used on labels only when the peas are actually of the Telephone variety.

The decision to make this investigation grew out of the question, recently raised by a food official, as to the propriety of using the word "Telephone" on labels for peas that were not actually of the Telephone variety. Subsequent informal discussion with the Food, Drug, and Insecticide officials in Washington indicated that some of them were of the opinion that consumers would naturally expect to receive the variety known as "Telephone" when purchasing canned peas labeled as "Telephone" peas.

As generally understood in the canned foods trade, the word "Telephone" on pea labels does not refer to variety. The designations for various sieve sizes of peas, as published in Bulletins 151 and 1961, Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in 1912 and 1915, respectively, indicate Petit Pois, Extra Sifted or Extra Fine, Sifted or Fine, Early June, Marrowfat and Telephone as corresponding to the various sieve sizes from No. 1 up. As stated in the Bulletin: "These designations, which were partially adapted from the French, have been in use for a long time and refer to size and not to variety nor to time of gathering, as would be inferred from the name 'Early June'. * * *The trade terms have little meaning to the consumer and could be supplanted by proper descriptive terms to the advantage of all concerned."

The Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration will welcome expressions from canners and others interested regarding the appropriateness, under present conditions, of using the word "Telephone" and other designations mentioned above in the sense that they are now used by the industry and trade. Canners are requested to write their views to the National Canners Association, so that they may be presented to the Federal officials.

Tomato Pack in 1928

The Department of Commerce announces that the total pack of tomatoes in the United States in 1928 was equivalent to 8,538,582 standard cases of No. 3 cans, a decrease of 35 per cent as compared with 13,137,042 standard cases packed in 1927.

With a few exceptions, this decrease was general throughout the States which reported the canning of tomatoes, only three States of any importance in the industry—Illinois, Colorado, and Utah—reporting increases. Many of the canners in Arkansas and Missouri, in Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey, in Indiana, in Tennessee, and in Virginia packed no tomatoes in 1928,

and the remainder of the canners in these States reported, as a rule, considerably smaller packs in 1928 than in 1927.

The actual number of cases of tomatoes packed in 1928 was 12,356,441, of which 942,820 cases were of No. 1 cans (48 to the case), 5,732,482 cases of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 2,413,035 cases of No. 2½ cans (24 to the case), 1,040,853 cases of No. 3 cans (24 to the case), 1,757,695 cases of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), and 469,556 cases of cans of other sizes (5-oz., 6-oz., 6½-oz., 8-oz., 10-oz., 11-oz., 12-oz., 15-oz., 16-oz., No. 1 tall, No. 1½, No. 2 squat, No. 5, No. 9, No. 93, No. 95, and No. 303) and glass jars.

The total number of reports received from canners who packed tomatoes was 750. Of these canners, 737 reported canning operations in one State only, 11 in two States, and 2 in three States.

The following table presents statistics for each State which reported a pack of more than 90,000 standard cases:

States	Actual number of cases as reported		Equivalent number of standard cases	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
California	2,669,681	2,532,923	1,991,022	2,256,874
Maryland	2,672,182	5,588,641	1,726,371	3,670,666
Utah	1,210,809	1,018,562	923,727	792,264
Arkansas	1,010,583	1,132,333	613,065	677,914
Indiana	865,431	1,572,341	613,037	1,181,254
Virginia	697,502	1,570,771	465,735	1,038,634
Missouri	636,600	983,329	393,908	603,029
Delaware	443,424	1,104,361	324,876	827,466
New York	352,439	392,909	261,869	299,820
Tennessee	258,274	605,864	156,618	368,880
Colorado	220,753	173,132	157,666	127,142
Illinois	180,434	175,050	126,288	124,171
Ohio	167,312	254,048	124,322	189,705
Kentucky	175,488	261,933	111,400	222,605
Pennsylvania	146,991	249,148	94,909	166,888
New Jersey	123,247	244,326	94,543	233,692
Other States a	315,990	463,692	260,756	335,538
Total	12,356,441	18,870,894	8,588,582	13,137,042

a For 1928—Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. For 1927—Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The delay in the publication of this report, the Census Bureau states, is due to the failure of some of the canners to send in their returns promptly.

Mexican West Coast Vegetable Shipments

Shipments of Mexican West Coast Vegetables into the United States during January amounted to 20,418,000 pounds as compared with 14,378,000 pounds in January, 1928, according to a report from the American consul at Nogales. This brings

shipments to the American market from the opening of the season on November 20, 1928, to January 31, 1929, up to a total of 32,383,000 pounds, or 1,703 cars, as against 21,819,000 pounds, or 1,084 cars during the corresponding period last season.

Shipments of the principal commodities during the three months of the 1927-28 and 1928-29 seasons were as follows:

	1927-28	1928-29
	Cars	Cars
Tomatoes	669	930
Green peas	386	373
Green peppers	39	126
String beans	12
Mixed	70	40
Total	1,084	1,703

Truck Crop Markets

Chiefly because of the lighter forwardings of old potatoes, the combined movement of 22 fruits and vegetables decreased during the week ended February 23 to 16,470 cars, according to the U. S. Market News Service. For the same period last season, the total was only 14,560. Movement of citrus fruits continued heavy. The total of 2,370 cars of oranges, 820 cars of grapefruit and about 200 of lemons was exceeded only by the 4,430 carloads of potatoes. Apples required 1,830 cars and lettuce about 1,500. The only other products that approached a thousand carloads each were cabbage and celery.

Movement of new cabbage continued to increase. About 780 cars were shipped, of which 510 came from Texas and 265 from Florida. Only 110 cars of old stock moved, and nearly all of them were from New York State. During the same week last season, shipments were 330 cars.

Florida strawberry shipments increased to 216 cars, as against 18 a year ago. Total to date from that State is twelve times what it was in 1928.

Florida is harvesting a heavy crop of celery. Peak movement in the Sanford district is expected around March 1, but shipments will continue well into May.

During the third week of February last season Florida shipped only 45 cars of tomatoes, compared with 355 cars during the period February 17-23 of the present season. In addition, 320 carloads of imported stock arrived last week. Tomatoes from Mexico have been twice as plentiful as a year ago, and imports from Cuba show a 50 per cent gain.

Forwardings of Texas spinach decreased to 540 cars. Shipments of lettuce from Imperial Valley, California, reached a peak of 1,400 cars for the week. Movement to date has been 7,500 cars, as against 8,150 a year ago, and the season total is forecast at 11,000 cars. Florida originated only 45 carloads during the past seven days; so that Imperial Valley stock is almost without competition.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Feb. 17-23 1929	Feb. 10-16 1929	Feb. 19-25 1928	Total this season to Feb. 23	Total last season to Feb. 25	Total last season
App'les, total	1,830	1,903	1,154	115,032	83,911	95,694
Eastern states	670	734	434	37,339	41,212	41,415
Western states	1,160	1,169	722	37,493	42,699	48,679
Cabbage:						
1929 season	782	733	684	4,142	4,041	37,961
1928 season	108	171	329	37,961	37,466	99,067
Carrots:						
1929 season	232	183	133	2,688	1,631	7,340
1928 season	30	30	38	7,340	6,065	6,832
Green peas:						
Domestic	3	6	14	473	373	4,681
Imports	103	110	98	979	787	987
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	739	777	782	6,044	5,699	33,295
Imports	14	15	30	111	136	415
Pears	34	53	48	23,093	18,561	18,744
Peppers:						
Domestic	78	29	33	239	776	3,566
Imports	15	43	92	861	414	743
Spinach	363	463	469	5,249	4,792	10,383
Strawberries	216	117	18	644	56	18,723
String beans:						
Domestic	136	70	29	787	1,484	6,687
Imports	0	4	0	38	1	2
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	353	280	45	2,036	1,190	30,363
Imports	320	339	133	3,336	2,069	3,523

Mexican West Coast Vegetables to be Inspected for Quality

Largely because of a lack of control of quality and the shipment of vegetables of inferior quality, prices recently obtained in the United States markets have been unsatisfactory. At a meeting of the West Coast Vegetable Association held on January 15, 1929, at which 90 per cent of the shippers are said to have been represented, an agreement was made that each shipment in the future is to be inspected at the border in Nogales, by representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, and if not found up to the standards and specifications of that Department as to quality, the produce is to be unloaded in Nogales, Sonora, and to be repacked to grade up to standard.

Inspection was had previously, but the shippers used their own discretion whether to reject inferior articles or to place them on the market. Whether this new agreement will bring the desired result is a question, since it still is voluntary and no strict compliance can be enforced. It rests upon the good will

and the realization of the individual shippers that the observance of the rules is to their best advantage and benefit. The inspection to be made by representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is, of course, aside and distinct from the usual inspection of vegetable products coming into the United States made by the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration of the Department.

Bahama Tomato Shipments Show Decline for Season

The 1928-29 tomato shipping season of the Bahamas is now practically at an end, according to a report from the American consul at Nassau. Total shipments from the beginning of the season on November 19 to February 12 amounted to 6,230,000 pounds as compared with 8,437,000 pounds in 1927-28, 5,959,258 pounds in 1926-27 and 5,128,989 pounds in 1925-26.

The hurricane of last September necessitated the replanting of most of the Bahama tomato fields and shipment of the bulk of the crop was somewhat delayed. In consequence Bahama tomatoes encountered severe competition on the New York market from shippers in Cuba, Mexico and Florida. Prices received after the first two weeks of the season were disappointing, and because of this fact many tomatoes were left in the field.

Intended Commercial Acreage of Snap Beans and Spinach

The intended acreage of snap beans and spinach in early states, as compared with the acreage in 1928, is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as follows:

	1928	1929
Snap beans:	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
California	3,350	2,700
Florida (spring crop)	16,760	12,000
Texas (spring crop)	4,930	5,910
Total	24,990	18,610
Spinach (spring crop):		
Maryland	1,880	1,880
Missouri	990	990
Virginia	5,400	5,400
Washington	120	100
Total	8,390	8,370

In California there are 880 acres reported for the spring crop for table use and 15,700 acres for canning, as compared with the 1928 spring acreage of 700 for table use and 12,340 acres for canning.

Corn Borer Quarantine Area Extended

Under an amendment to the European corn borer quarantine regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, new ter-

ritory, mainly that found infested with this insect during the past season, is added to the regulated area, effective March 1, 1929. At the same time, the requirement of certification is discontinued with respect to packages of shelled corn weighing two pounds or less. The Department's statement follows:

The two-generation area is enlarged to include 28 new towns in Middlesex, New London, and Windham counties, Connecticut; one in Worcester County, Massachusetts; four in Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties, Maine; and eight in Carroll, Cheshire and Grafton counties, New Hampshire. Throughout this area inspection and certification will now be required with respect to shelled corn (except in packages of two pounds or less), the cleaned seed of broomcorn and of sorghums and Sudan grass, celery, green beans in the pod, beets with tops, rhubarb, oat and rye straw as such or when used as packing cut flowers and entire plants of chrysanthemum, aster, cosmos, zinnia, hollyhock, gladiolus and dahlia.

The additional territory in the one-generation or western area is more extensive. It consists of seven towns in Cheshire and Sullivan counties, New Hampshire; all of Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Rutland, and Windham counties, and 35 towns in Bennington, Lamoille, Orleans, Washington, and Windsor counties, Vermont; 66 towns in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties Massachusetts; one town in Hartford county, Connecticut; all of Carbon, Mifflin, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties, and 31 towns in Columbia, Greene, Montour, Northumberland, and Schuylkill counties, Pennsylvania; six towns in Marshall county, West Virginia; 131 towns in Belmont, Clarke, Darke, Fairfield, Fayette, Greene, Guernsey, Madison, Miami, Montgomery, Muskingum, Perry, and Pickaway counties, Ohio; 60 towns in Delaware, Fulton, Grant, Huntington, Jay, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Randolph, Starke, St. Joseph, and Wells, counties, Indiana; and all of the heretofore unregulated portions of the State of Michigan.

The requirements for the one-generation area provide for the inspection and certification of shelled corn (except in packages of two pounds or less) and cleaned seed of broomcorn and of sorghum and Sudan grass only, as the strain of the borer found in that region does not attack flowers and vegetables.

The shipment of ear corn, cornstalks and other parts and debris of corn, broomcorn, sorghum and Sudan grass plants from the regulated areas to or through points outside thereof is prohibited.

The actual spread of the borer during the past year, except in the New England States, has been less than during previous seasons. In Indiana, however, it has found its way west to the shore of Lake Michigan and that fact, added to its spread in the upper peninsula of the State of Michigan, is the cause of the extension of the quarantine to cover that entire State.

January Imports of Tomato Products

Imports of canned tomatoes in January, 1929, amounted to 11,584,855 pounds valued at \$691,913, as compared with 12,050,694 pounds valued at \$666,405 in January, 1928, and 9,296,877 pounds valued at \$494,209 in January, 1927.

Tomato paste imports in January, 1929, total 858,689 pounds, valued at \$117,092 as compared with 2,318,596 pounds valued at \$219,000 in January, 1928, and 1,445,927 pounds valued at \$132,515 in January, 1927.

More Uruguayan Canned Beef for United States

Exports of canned beef from Uruguay to the United States in 1928 amounted to 27,395,962 pounds, compared with 19,383,909 pounds in 1927, according to the American vice consul at Montevideo. Shippers explain that there is a growing demand for canned beef in the United States, and that the attractive prices quoted by the Uruguayan packers have resulted in a large increase in this business in recent years. The Uruguayan packers are confident that this increase will continue.

Alaska Fisheries Act Amended

There has gone to the President for his approval the bill (S. 5073) amending the Alaska Fisheries Act so as to provide that "It shall be unlawful to preserve for sale as food for human consumption any salmon unless it shall have been canned, salted, iced, frozen, smoked, or dried within forty-eight hours after being killed."

The existing Act provides that "It shall be unlawful to can or salt for sale as food any salmon more than forty-eight hours after it has been killed." Large cold storage plants and other plants have been freezing and properly taking care of salmon promptly after capture so that there is no deterioration in quality even though a period considerably greater than forty-eight hours may elapse after the fish has been killed. The present measure is designed to relieve the situation so that salmon kept in first class condition by cold storage machinery may be cured or otherwise preserved after the forty-eight hour period.

Canned Foods Exports in January

The monthly statistics on exports of canned foods, published by the Department of Commerce, will hereafter furnish separate figures on fruit for salad.

Exports of canned foods during January as compared with the same month in 1928 show an increase of nearly 10,000,000 pounds in shipments of canned fruits, and a gain of about 1,000,000 pounds in canned vegetables. Salmon exports showed a gain of about 4,000,000 pounds, while sardine shipments increased nearly 5,000,000. The exports of evaporated and condensed milk both declined, and there was also a decline in canned meat exports.

Figures for January, 1928 and 1929, are given in the following table:

Articles	January, 1928		January, 1929	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,033,182	\$399,549	999,888	\$373,422
Beef	161,383	62,266	162,668	39,882
Pork	431,236	172,249	392,730	230,123
Sausage	217,873	78,797	196,758	66,623
Other	322,470	86,237	114,392	36,794
Canned vegetables, total	5,387,965	509,637	6,314,396	618,140
Asparagus	1,094,593	152,369	1,471,951	231,540
Baked beans, and pork and beans	570,791	54,092	569,092	48,177
Corn	359,093	48,618	591,278	51,499
Peas	492,099	43,177	583,376	36,873
Soups	1,327,370	116,723	1,156,036	117,082
Tomatoes	390,879	25,728	512,405	36,490
Other	1,142,940	66,511	1,426,058	83,527
Condensed milk	3,818,892	607,068	3,431,620	538,019
Evaporated milk	7,359,969	815,048	6,020,630	615,591
Canned fruits, total	23,294,047	2,046,214	32,117,159	2,931,850
Apples and applesauce	2,778,897	148,531	2,952,118	147,535
Apricots	2,192,951	196,870	2,367,547	226,531
Berries	1,131,011	117,386	651,284	60,375
Cherries	190,589	32,097	198,783	32,863
Fruits for salad			2,150,063	317,797
Peaches	7,474,773	587,733	10,814,234	873,571
Pears	2,733,429	282,983	7,811,858	750,928
Pineapple	3,065,625	296,493	3,915,854	383,459
Prunes	171,662	18,887	259,847	28,766
Other	626,260	59,324	1,009,564	110,175
Salmon	2,401,114	464,263	6,356,635	1,126,009
Sardines	6,573,192	532,304	11,372,963	832,842

House Passes Warehouse Act Amendment

On February 25 the House passed a bill (H. R. 16720) amending the Warehouse Act so as to prevent conflicts between its provisions and state laws, and to make the Federal statute independent of state legislation. The measure is designed to give warehouse receipts issued under the Warehouse Act such collateral value as to command the confidence of bankers.

Commission Preparing Final Report on Tomato Products

The Tariff Commission, it is reported, began on February 23 the final preparation of its report to the President dealing with the cost of producing foreign and domestic canned tomatoes and tomato paste. The Commission did not announce when its work would be completed, but states that the report is practically finished.

New York Fruit and Vegetable Pack

In the following table is shown the pack of canned fruits and vegetables in New York in 1928, as compiled by the Association of New York Canners, Inc., in cases of conventional sizes.

Articles	Size	1926 Cases	1927 Cases	1928 Cases
Asparagus	2	4,804	3,066	5,816
Beans, green	2	632,920	692,806	826,268
Beans, lima	2	75,160	59,325	158,824
Beans, red kidney	2	77,823	48,534	231,104
Beans, wax	2	222,523	190,103	341,201
Beets	3	226,615	174,906	200,936
Carrots	10	15,124	25,287	28,613
Corn	2	1,066,491	716,486	636,373
Corn on cob	3	1,234	30	184
Kraut	3	381,654	678,748	751,438
Pears	2	2,663,533	1,674,397	2,198,826
Pumpkin and squash	3	32,288	23,905	62,449
Rhubarb	10	8,227	8,102	11,195
Spinach	2½	71,203	81,433	111,174
Succotash	3	92,769	38,334	54,964
Tomatoes	3	304,544	327,760	269,155
Tomato pulp and puree	10	23,773	14,183	31,233
Apples	10	469,629	313,202	417,324
Apple sauce	2	473,954	292,174	906,807
Blackberries	2	2,917	0	89
Cherries, R. S. P.	10	207,636	107,325	98,983
Cherries, red sweet	2	1,137	821	2
Cherries, white	2	14,100	4,337	260
Currants	10	98	58	50
Elderberries	10	1,157	1,266	12
Gooseberries	2	1,833	1,095	1,433
Peaches	2½	23,204	5,130	8,673
Pears	2½	96,499	109,218	152,159
Plums and prunes	2	40,182	6,573	24,492
Quinces	10	273	3,540	1,584
Raspberries, black	2	54,939	43,511	76,156
Raspberries, red	2	197,531	156,254	149,842
Strawberries	2	9,566	11,702	3,085
Total, as No. 2's		6,334,063	7,806,984	9,742,370

Rate Case Proceeding Reopened

Upon application of the complainant, the Interstate Commerce Commission has reopened for further hearing the proceeding involving the rates on canned foods from Watertown and Winsted, Minn., to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other points in California taking the same rates. In an earlier decision the Commission had found the rates not unreasonable.

New Rates on Vegetables Prescribed

Rates on vegetables not otherwise specified, including peas and beans, in certain packages, from North Carolina producing points to destinations in Eastern Trunk Line and New England territories, are found unreasonable in a recent report by the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has prescribed bases for reasonable and non-prejudicial rates.

Fresh Fruit Rate Case Argued Before Supreme Court

Arguments were heard in the U. S. Supreme Court on February 25 on the question whether the Interstate Commerce Commission was acting within its authority when it lowered the rates to be charged on deciduous fruits from California to the East.

It is the contention of the railroads that the order of the Commission reducing the rates was based on the Hoch-Smith resolution, and that as applied to this case the Commission changed the existing rate irrespective of whether or not it was unreasonable merely because the fruit industry was suffering from depression. The carriers contend that if the Hoch-Smith resolution is so construed as to base rates not upon the approved and accepted principle of rate making, but upon whether the shipper was or was not conducting his business at a profit, the resolution is unconstitutional.

Navy Department to Buy Mincemeat and Asparagus

The Navy Department is asking for bids, to be opened March 26, for 34,900 pounds of canned mincemeat, 7,200 pounds for delivery at Brooklyn, 6,500 pounds at Hampton Roads, 15,000 pounds at Mare Island, and 6,200 pounds at Bremerton, Washington.

Bids are also asked by the Navy Department, to be opened May 7, on 866,000 pounds of canned asparagus, 38,000 pounds for delivery at Boston, 95,000 pounds at Brooklyn, 51,000 pounds at Philadelphia, 188,000 pounds at Hampton Roads, 285,000 pounds at Mare Island, and 209,000 pounds at Bremerton.

Copies of schedule 584 (mincemeat) and 588 (asparagus) may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Preserved Fruits Containing Alum Banned in Bulgaria

Information received in the Department of Commerce from the American vice consul at Sofia, states that the importation

of preserved fruits containing alum is now prohibited, according to Customs Circular No. 17674 of the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance.

Fish Canning Industry at Stavanger

The Stavanger fish-canning industry did not enjoy a very busy season during the last quarter of 1928 compared with the same period of 1927, according to a recent report from the American consul. The fall brisling fishing was a failure and the total quantity of small herring, including mussa, delivered to the canneries was about one half that delivered in 1927.

The Stavanger district exported during the quarter 10,706,000 pounds of canned fish products as against 17,557,000 pounds during the like period of 1927. The decline of the 1928 exports is attributed to poor fishing during the previous quarters and in consequence thereof small stocks of sardines at the beginning of the quarter. About 43 per cent of the canned fish exports during the last quarter of 1928 went to the United States, as compared with 52 per cent during the same period in 1927.

Spanish Fish Packers Enjoy Good Year

Good catches of all kinds of fish have continued, according to information furnished the Department of Commerce by the American consul at Vigo. Sardines and sprats have been plentiful and the factories were able to work almost to full extent during the period just ended.

With the permission granted by the central government to the fish packers to pack, for export only, fish in peanut oil, the canners in Vigo hope to improve their position in foreign markets. This change will affect adversely Spain's prospects in Cuba, however, since the Cuban Government has invoked the anti-dumping section of its customs law to prohibit the entry of products the sale of which is not permitted in the country of origin. It is reported that the Asociacion de Industrias Pasqueras is making every effort to obtain a removal of this ruling, but little success is expected.

Farm Situation in February

Heavier shipments of early truck crops from Florida and the extreme Southwest as compared with this time a year ago is reported as one of the features of the farm situation the past month by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

An increasing volume of strawberries, citrus fruits, celery, carrots, spinach, and potatoes moved to market last month, and the country-wide carlot movement of 22 important vegetables and fruits was about 7,000 cars more this February than last.

A backward spring season is reported, however, in northern and western producing areas. Snow and cold waves have harassed the North, and especially the livestock industries of the western range country.

Damaged winter crops in the South and on the Pacific Coast are reported, with preparations for spring work decidedly backward even in the South where heavy rains and cold weather, except in Florida, have hindered field work and crop growth.

Business Conditions

Manufacturing and mining increased in January and the first part of February, while building continued to decline, according to the Federal Reserve Board. Wholesale commodity prices rose slightly. Reserve bank credit declined between the middle of January and the middle of February reflecting chiefly a reduction in reserve balances of member banks.

Industrial production increased in January and continued to be larger than a year ago. In the first part of February preliminary reports indicate the maintenance of a high level of industrial activity.

Building activity declined in January for the third successive month, reflecting primarily a large reduction in awards for residential building, while commercial building awards increased somewhat. The value of building contracts let during the first six weeks of the year was substantially lower than in the corresponding period of either 1928 or 1927.

Shipments of freight by rail increased during January and the first two weeks of February and were larger than a year ago. The increase during January reflected primarily larger shipments of coal and coke and livestock.

Sales by wholesale firms were seasonally larger in January and above the level of a year ago. Department store sales declined less than is usual at this season and were considerably larger than in January, 1928.

The volume of trade during the week ended February 23, as indicated by check payments, was greater than in either the previous week or the same period of 1928, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Freight-car loading, covering the latest week, showed a gain over both the previ-

ous week and the corresponding week last year. The general index of wholesale prices showed a gain over both periods. Interest rates on both time and call funds averaged the same as during the preceding week, but were higher than for the same period last year. Business failures covering the latest reported week were smaller than in either the preceding week or the same week of 1928.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended February 16	958,051	337,988	248,443	371,673
Preceding week	955,478	328,598	248,688	378,192
Corresponding week, 1928	888,586	321,969	249,172	317,415
Corresponding week, 1927	954,794	326,993	252,859	374,942

Canned Milk Market Situation

Although production of canned milk and stocks in the hands of manufacturers remain heavier than a year ago, the trade has been sufficiently active to give milk a slightly firmer trend than a month ago.

Production in January was reported as about 5 per cent heavier than for January last year. Unsold stocks in the hands of manufacturers reporting both January 1 and February 1, 1929, show an increase of 4 per cent. Exports of both condensed and evaporated milk were lower in January than in January last year.

The stocks of condensed and evaporated milk in the hands of 405 wholesale grocers in 38 cities on December 31, 1928, totaled 14,059,407 pounds. For September 30, 1928, 410 wholesale grocers reported stocks of 25,682,855 pounds, while for December 31, 1927, 453 firms reported 13,352,081 pounds.

Meat Production and Consumption in 1928

The total meat production in 1928 was 16,955,000,000 pounds, or 83,000,000 pounds more than that of the preceding year, according to the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, but the increase was not sufficient to maintain the per capita consumption at the 1927 level. The per capita consumption for 1927 was 139.7 pounds and for 1928 exactly 138 pounds. The latter is composed of 51.7 pounds beef, 6.8 pounds veal, 5.6 pounds lamb and mutton, and 73.9 pounds pork. The per capita totals have been falling steadily for several years. With the population increasing at the rate of almost a million and a half annually, an increase of about 200 million pounds of meat each year is necessary to hold the per capita at the present level.

Detailed statistics are given in a mimeographed pamphlet entitled "Meat Production and Consumption in United States, 1900-1928." Copies may be had free on application to the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Bulletin on Corn Borer Parasites

In Technical Bulletin No. 98, issued in January, the U. S. Department of Agriculture describes parasites of the European corn borer that have been introduced into the United States under the corn-borer parasite project of the Bureau of Entomology.

Canadian Grocery Chain Sales Show 25 Per Cent Increase

Chain grocery store sales in Canada were 25 per cent higher in 1928 than in 1927, it is estimated from the quarterly figures available from some of the leading grocery chains in the Dominion, according to a recent report received in the Department of Commerce. This growth in sales was in line with the general trend since chain stores have become recognized as a factor in the system of retail distribution. Since 1922 sales of chain grocery stores in Canada have increased between 400 and 500 per cent.

There are now about 3,000 chain stores in Canada. Of this total, 1,200 stores are operated in Ontario and Quebec by fifteen Canadian chains.

Mexican Bean Beetle Control

In Information Card No. 24 issued by the Extension Service of the University of Maryland, State Entomologist Ernest N. Cory presents information for the canner, trucker and market gardener on the control of the Mexican bean beetle. Starting with advice to plan the campaign against the beetle now, the card furnishes information on spraying and dusting materials and methods, time to spray, how to plow down fields after harvesting, etc.

Copies of the card may be obtained by application to the Extension Service, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Studies in Corn Breeding

Pure-line methods of breeding sweet corn are being given more attention by the Division of Olericulture of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, according to the annual report for 1927-28, in an effort to get strains which will be better

adopted for the canning factory and which will return more profit to the grower.

About 150 strains of Country Gentleman and Narrow Grain Evergreen have survived five to six generations of self-pollination. This method of breeding permits elimination of strains with undesirable characters, abnormalities, susceptibility to disease, and other objectionable features. Imbreeding brings out latent defects. About a dozen of the 150 strains show exceptional promise. They are prolific, show no abnormalities, and seem to be disease resistant even under adverse conditions. Some of these already have been crossed with equally good strains. Performance of the hybrids will be studied carefully.

The breeding of sweet corn presents problems somewhat different from those met in breeding field corn, according to the report. In the case of sweet corn, yield of course comes first but unless high yield is linked with uniform maturity, tenderness, and high quality, a new strain has little value. Careful studies of all these factors, both individually and in their relation to each other, are now being made. A goodly share of the sweet-corn breeding work is being devoted to an intensive study of the factors which may make one strain of high quality and another of low quality. Progress has been made in this direction by studying the inheritance of certain characters which help to make quality.

Tenderness is obviously an essential in any good strain of sweet corn. It was at first believed that tenderness was due to soil conditions. Comprehensive tests made with a specially devised instrument called a "penetrometer," showed that soil treatments had no noticeable effect on tenderness. When pure-line strains were studied, however, vast differences were found in their tenderness. As many strains as possible are now being tested each year to determine whether tenderness is an inherent character. If such is found to be the case, the behavior of this character in inheritance will be studied.

Starchiness is another factor which has been getting much attention. It is generally believed that starchy sweet corn is tough. Accordingly, breeders have tried to eliminate the starchy strains. They have been successful only in the case of pure lines. These studies, as far as they have gone, indicate that toughness and starchiness do not necessarily go together. One extremely starchy strain has been isolated which is one of the most tender tested up to the present.